

School's still out on project

Madison school construction on hold; residents question board

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Madison residents went to the school board forum Monday night to get answers about a delay in school construction plans.

However, many of those who attended the meeting at the high school left with more questions.

Concerns about the Madison Village sewer system have stalled the project.

Assistant engineer talks about approval process at News-Herald.com



Problems arose during an April meeting when the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency told the district it was not in favor of granting approval of village permits for the new middle school site on Middle Ridge Road because of noncompliance and capacity issues.

The school is slated to be in Madison Township, but Madison Village will provide sewer and water service.

The village must obtain permits to install a connection to its system.

Village council members were set to
See Project, Page A4

Project

From Page A1

approve a short-term action plan on Monday night for immediate improvements to the sanitary system.

The utilities committee presented the plan to council which included key issues such as inspection of sanitary manholes and making necessary repairs as well as a discussion with the treatment plant operator to make recommendations about how the facility can be run in a more efficient manner, wrote Madison Village Administrator Alyson Moritz.

The action plan will then be sent to the EPA. The agency would need to approve the village's request to connect with the township. It's unknown if the EPA will sign off on the plans.

The Lake County commissioners also have to support the project, said Dan Gerson, Madison Village assistant engineer.

He said the short-term plan would address a reduction of about 9,000 gallons in sewer flow needed to help the district move forward with its plans.

The plan will then be used

to develop long-range goals, including future maintenance and upgrades to the plant. Village officials say they hope to have a completed model for a long-term action plan by November 2011.

Gerson said he hopes to get a short-term plan to the EPA for review later this week.

Madison Schools Superintendent Roger Goudy said the EPA district engineer promised the process would be expedited once the plan reached its office.

Kenneth R. Gauntner Jr., a Madison Township resident and former Lake County administrator, questioned board members on why the issue with the village sewer system wasn't discovered earlier.

Other residents were worried about the project's timetable if there were further setbacks.

Resident Joe Vulcan questioned discussions by board members at last month's meeting to depart from the original school construction plans.

"The board can talk about anything, but until three of them vote one way, there is no formal action," Goudy said.